

**High-Intermediate 1**  
**Unit 2 Punctuation Note**  
**Presented by Mohammad Rajabpur**

## Comma

A comma (,) is a punctuation mark that indicates a pause in a sentence. It's used to separate items in a list, to set off introductory elements, to separate clauses, and to clarify meaning. Here are some key uses of commas:

### **Separating Items in a List:**

Example: I bought apples, oranges, and bananas.

### **Setting Off Introductory Elements:**

Example: After the movie, we went to dinner.

### **Separating Clauses:**

Example: She ran to the store, but it was closed.

### **Setting Off Non-Essential Information:**

We use commas to set off an appositive (non-essential information) from the rest of the sentence.

Examples:

My brother, who lives in New York, is going to call me.

Paris, the capital of France, attracts thousands of tourists every day.

The Trojan War broke out because Paris, the Greek queen, escaped away from her husband to the city of Troy.

### **Before Quotations:**

Example: She said, "I'm coming over."

Commas help make sentences clearer and more readable.

### **Point:**

When we use two quality adjectives before a noun, we should use a comma to separate the adjectives.

Examples:

- Tom is a handsome, intelligent man.
- I bought a stylish, powerful computer.

**Point:**

To separate numbers in dates in American English, we use a comma:

Example:

- October 31, 2020
- April 17, 2021

In British English, as the number of the day is written before the name of the month, a comma is not needed.

Example:

- 31 October 2020
- 17 April 2021

**Source:**

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